

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed from the Patent and Trademark Office on November 12, 2004. A petition to revive the present application is submitted in a petition filed herewith.

Claims 1-18 are pending in the above-identified application, and these claims stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Hsu (USP 6,195,692), or under 35 USC 102 as being unpatentable over Hsu in view of Challenger (USP 6,598,032) or Bright (USP 5,694,473).

In the current paper, Claims 1 and 12-14 are amended. No new matter is entered. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Rejections under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-6 and 12-18 are rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Hsu.

Claim 1 is amended herein to recite (in pertinent part):

...downloading the channel table from the system server to a user terminal by transmitting the channel table from the system server to a satellite uplink station of a satellite system via the Internet, and from the satellite system to the user terminal.

Similarly, Claim 12 is amended to recite (in pertinent part):

...a second communications port for providing upstream access to system server via the Internet, the second communications port being coupled to the channel table memory.

Support for the amendments to Claims 1 and 12 is

provided in Applicant's paragraphs 0083 and 0084 and Fig. 10 (copied below for reference):

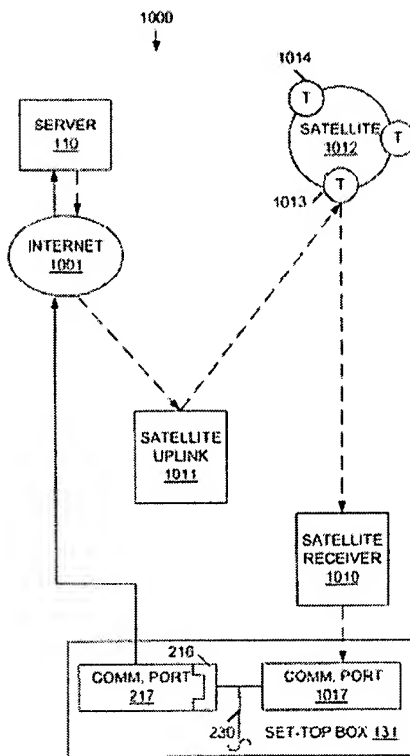


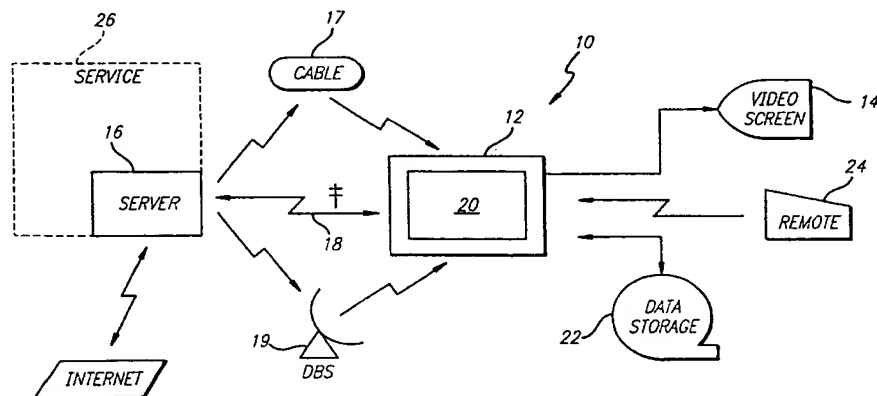
FIG. 10

[0083] Within system 1000, data is routed to and from set-top box 131 in the following manner. Upstream communication data is routed from the first communications port 217 to the Internet 1001 and server 110 over a terrestrial communication system (e.g., telephone line or coaxial cable) in the manner described above in Figs. 1-9. The upstream communication data path is shown in solid lines in Fig. 10. For example, the first communications port 217 may provide a service request (Step 715, Fig. 7), a user ID, a channel table version number, or a terminal number (Step 725, Fig. 7), a request for a current channel table (Step 820, Figs. 8A-8B) or an internet address (URL) (Steps 910 and 948, Fig. 9).

[0084] However, instead of routing the associated downstream communication data from server 110 and/or Internet 1001 back to the first communications port 217, the downstream communication data is routed from Internet 1001 to satellite uplink 1011. Upon receiving the downstream communication data from Internet 1001, satellite uplink 1011 transmits this data to a transponder 1013 on an orbiting (extra-terrestrial) satellite 1012. In response, satellite transponder 1013 transmits the downstream communication data to satellite receiver 1010 using an appropriate protocol (e.g., FDN/TDM). Satellite transponder 1013 can be used to service approximately 100 to 300 different users. Multiple transponders (e.g., transponders 1013-1015) can be provided to increase the number of users that can be serviced by satellite 1012.

As amended Claims 1 and 12 are believed to be distinguished over Hsu because Hsu's Fig. 1 (copied below) clearly shows that communications between the system server 16 do not involve transmission via the Internet:

FIG. 1



In particular, Hsu's Fig. 1 clearly shows that the Internet is located outside of the transmission path between server 16 and client 10. Accordingly, Hsu is distinguished over Claim 1 at least because Hsu fails to teach "downloading the channel table from the system server to a user terminal by transmitting the channel table from the system server to a satellite uplink station of a satellite system via the Internet, and from the satellite system to the user terminal", as recited in Claim 1. Further, Hsu is distinguished over Claim 12 at least because Hsu fails to teach "a second communications port for providing upstream access to system server via the Internet, the second communications port being coupled to the channel table memory", as recited in Claim 12.

Claims 2-6 are dependent from Claim 1, and are distinguished over Hsu for at least the reasons provided above with reference to Claim 1.

Claims 13 and 14 (which are amended to be consistent with the amendments to Claim 12) are dependent from Claim 12, and are distinguished over Hsu for at least the reasons provided above with reference to Claim 12.

Applicant traverses the rejection directed to Claim 15 in that, similar to the argument raised above with respect to Claims 1 and 12, Hsu fails to teach or suggest "a satellite communications system coupled to the Internet; and a user terminal having a communications port configured to download the channel table from system server via the Internet and the satellite communications system", as recited in Claim 15.

Claims 16-18 are dependent from Claim 15, and are distinguished over Hsu for at least the reasons provided

above with reference to Claim 15.

For the above reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 102.

Rejections under 35 USC 103

Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Hsu in view of Challenger, and Claim 11 is rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Hsu in view of Bright.

Claims 7-11 are dependent from Claim 1, and are therefore distinguished over Hsu for at least the reasons provided above with reference to Claim 1. Further, neither Challenger nor Bright overcome the deficiencies of Hsu that are discussed above. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to combine the teachings of Hsu with Challenger or Bright to produce the method of Claim 1. As such, Claims 7-11 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

For the above reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 103.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present Application.  
Reconsideration and allowance Claims 1-18 is respectfully  
requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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